

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02888 011508Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 L-03 DRC-01

/096 W

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R 011406Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0152

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2888

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: SA ARMY OFFICER KILLED IN ACTION ON NORTHERN BORDER

1. SAG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A SADF OFFICER, LT. FREDERICK ZEELIE, 22, WAS KILLED DURING SKIRMISH WITH GUERRILLAS ON NORTHERN BORDER APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO. ZEELIE IS BELIEVED TO BE FIRST MEMBER OF SADF TO BE KILLED IN ACTION WHILE SERVING ON BORDER. THERE HAVE BEEN FATALITIES IN PAST, BUT THESE ALL HAVE BEEN SA POLICEMEN.

2. SA NEWSPAPERS HAD WIND OF STORY AS EARLY AS JUNE 24, BUT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DID NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR NEWS TO BE PUBLISHED UNTIL NIGHT OF JUNE 29, A DAY AFTER ZEELIE'S FUNERAL. SAG HAS CONTINUED TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE ZEELIE WAS KILLED AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH. EMBARGO ON NEWS HAS LED TO SPECULATION THAT SKIRMISH MAY HAVE

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TAKEN PLACE SOMEWHERE ELSE THAN CAPRIVI STRIP, E.G., ALONG

SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER WITH RHODESIA OR MOZAMBIQUE. WE SHOULD
HAVE CLARIFICATION ON THIS LATTER TODAY WHEN SADF WILL HOLD
BRIEFING FOR MILITARY ATTACHES.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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